

## Message Text

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15

ACTION EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-06 OMB-01

ACDA-05 SAJ-01 EUR-12 /075 W  
----- 019793

P R 081019Z SEP 75

FM AMEMBASSY TAIPEI

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 6920

INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG

AMEMBASSY MANILA

USLO PEKING

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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EO 11652 NA

TAGS PFOR TW CH

SUBJECT: FORMER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE MELVIN LAIRD'S COMMENTS ON US-CH

INA

RELATIONS

1. MELVIN LAIRD IN CAPACITY READER'S DIGEST SENIOR COUNSELOR INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL AFFAIRS, SPOKE SEPTEMBER 8 LUNCHEON GIVEN BY READER'S DIGEST TO AUDIENCE ABOUT 50 CHINESE, AMERICAN BUSINESS, MEDIA LEADERS, SEVERAL US EMBASSY OFFICIALS.

2. SPEECH ORIGINALLY INTENDED COVER INTERNATIONAL ECONOMIC AS WELL AS POLITICAL ISSUES, BUT TIME PERMITTED ONLY STATEMENT ON DETENTE AND ASIAN SITUATION (ESPECIALLY CHANGED JAPANESE ATTITUDES ABOUT SECURITY) FOLLOWED BY SHORT QUESTION PERIOD.

3. MAIN BURDEN OF SPEECH CHARACTERIZED DETENTE AS BASICALLY A SITUATION BETWEEN ADVERSARIES. PRINCIPAL ACHIEVEMENT TO DATE FROM US POINT OF VIEW IS FIRST SMALL STEP REPRESENTED BY SALT I. SOVIET UNION HAS IN FACT BROKEN TERMS OF SPECIFIC AGREEMENT IN MATTER OF RADAR DEVICE DEVELOPMENT AND TESTING, AND HAS NOT BEEN HELPFUL

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IN LARGER DETENTE CONTEXT, I.E., PARIS ACCORDS AND MIDDLE EAST. IN GENERAL CONTEXT HIS CONFIRMATION OF US DETERMINATION LIVE UP TO PRESENT TREATY COMMITMENTS IN ASIA, HE SPECIFICALLY MENTIONED GROC. (CONTENT OF DETENTE DISCUSSION GENERALLY PARALLELED

THAT OF LAIRD ARTICLE JULY DIGEST ENTITLED "IS THIS DETENTE?".)

4. IN MAIN SPEECH LAIRD ALSO SAID NATIONS OF ASIA REALIZE IT IS IN INTEREST OF ALL TO HAVE AMERICAN PRESENCE IN ASIA. HE BELIEVED THAT WAS REASON WHY COMMUNIST CHINESE HAVE CHANGED THEIR POSITION FROM HARD LINE THEY ADVOCATED EARLIER THIS SUMMER; THAT WAS WHY THEY HAVE RELAXED THEIR POSITION WITH REGARD TO PRESIDENT FORD'S VISIT AND HAVE BACKED DOWN FROM INSISTENCE ON RECOGNITION, REMOVAL OF ALL US TROOPS FROM TAIWAN AND ABROGATION OF MUTUAL SECURITY TREATY AS PREREQUISITES TO FORD VISIT.

5. IN QUESTION PERIOD, RESPONDING TO QUERY ABOUT HOW CONGRESS FELT ABOUT ISSUE OF SECURITY COMMITMENT TO ROC, LAIRD SAID MAJORITY WOULD FAVOR NO CHANGE; ONLY ABOUT TEN SENATORS AND SMALL MINORITY OF CONGRESSMEN WOULD FAVOR CHANGE.

6. WHEN QUERIED AS TO WHAT ADVICE HE WOULD GIVE TO THE PRESIDENT, HE FIRST SAID HE DID NOT WISH TO GO INTO DETAIL; HE LATER SAID HIS ADVICE WOULD BE THAT THE CONDITIONS SET FORTH BY THE PRC CANNOT BE MET AND CANNOT BE PART AND PARCEL OF ANY AGREEMENT. HE IDENTIFIED "CONDITIONS" AS BEING THOSE THREE PREREQUISITES WHICH HE HAD EARLIER MENTIONED, NAMELY IN PARA 4 ABOVE.

7. ALTHOUGH LAIRD, WHEN BEGINNING HIS TALK, EMPHASIZED HE IS IN TAIWAN IN PRIVATE CAPACITY, HE ALSO MENTIONED AT MORE THAN ONE POINT HIS CLOSE RELATION WITH PRESIDENT AND AUDIENCE MAY ASSUME HIS INFORMATION FROM HIGHEST SOURCE.

8. TAPE OF SPEECH BEING SENT SEPARATELY.  
UNGER

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## Message Attributes

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**To:** STATE INFO HONG KONG  
MANILA  
PEKING  
TOKYO  
**Type:** TE  
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